



Congressman  
**Bart Stupak**

Michigan's First Congressional District

Dear Friends:

Fall 1999

The first session of the 106th Congress has been extremely busy and extremely important for the people of northern Michigan. The continued strength of the U.S. economy, spurred by economic policies adopted in 1993, have combined to foster a unique debate - what to do with the budget surplus. My position on the matter can be simply stated: We cannot go back to the days of budget deficits and wasteful spending.

In July, when the U.S. House was debating a tax cut bill, I offered the House Rules Committee an amendment that said tax reductions may only occur when the Office of Management and Budget has certified that the tax reductions do not create a budget deficit, when the Board of Trustees has certified that Social Security is solvent until 2051, and the Trustees of the Medicare trust fund certify that Medicare is solvent until 2027.

The committee chairman described this proposal as "profoundly reasonable," but, unfortunately, in the partisan climate of the tax cut debate this summer, this amendment was not ruled in order for consideration by the full House. I have seen the federal budget go from a deficit of \$320 billion to an annual budget surplus of \$116 billion, and I will continue to offer and support proposals that foster fiscal discipline and prudence.

This session of Congress featured highly-publicized and sometimes highly emotional debates over the issues of juvenile justice and gun safety. Efforts of a few individuals to portray my June vote on gun show background checks as a Second Amendment issue is a false assertion. The NRA agrees with the concept of background checks and supported the 24-hour time frame to perform such a check. I supported the proposal to allow up to three working days to complete a check. This was the main difference between the two legislative proposals. Three days makes sense, because everyone commercially selling guns already operates under the same background check system, and gun shows would be brought in line with existing requirements. Secondly, 98 percent of Michigan residents are cleared within two hours. The remaining two percent, those with questionable violent incidents in their background, should be checked, but before they receive their gun. It's that simple.

The juvenile justice issue has been much more far-reaching than a debate over background checks. I have been asked by House leadership to serve on a 20-member panel to develop bipartisan legislation on this topic, and I have worked actively to involve young people in debate and discussion on Capitol Hill. (See stories on pages 4 and 7.) In addition, I co-sponsored important amendments to this bill. The first, co-sponsored with Rep. Robert Wise of West Virginia and which was accepted by the full House, would provide block grants for creation of confidential hotlines for students and teachers to report potential incidents of violence. A second amendment, which I co-sponsored with Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee and which we have also introduced as separate legislation, calls on the manufacturers and producers of media products - interactive video games, television shows, motion pictures, music and video programs - to develop a uniform system of labels on the nature and intensity of violent content and age appropriateness of their products.

I look forward to hearing from residents of the 1st Congressional District on these and other issues.

Sincerely,

*Bart Stupak*

# Water sales, directional drilling

## BILL SEEKS MORATORIUM ON WATER SALES

Concerned

that the nation's fresh water supply could go on the auction block as an international commodity, a bipartisan group of congressmen is fighting for a policy that protects this resource from bulk export.

Led by Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., House members Tom Barrett, D-Wisconsin, David Bonior, D-Mich., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Steven LaTourette, R-Ohio, Jack Quinn, R-New York, and Ted Strickland, D-Ohio, and others

have joined in the fight to seek a moratorium on the bulk sale of fresh water.

The bill calls for the moratorium to remain in place until the completion of a water study – which is currently being conducted at the request of the U.S. and Canadian governments – and until laws or regulations are in place to protect the nation's fresh water supply.

The bill represents a rising tide of concern about potential sales or di-

versions of the

Great Lakes and other United States fresh water sources that first surfaced with debates over the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993.

"I then warned Michigan residents and the administration that NAFTA posed a threat to one of our most precious resources, the Great Lakes," Stupak said. "Now it is time for Congress and the administration to put safeguards in place to protect this lifeblood of our nation, its commerce and recreation." □

## Stupak tells IJC: "We must be stewards, guardians

*(The following remarks are excerpted from testimony offered by Rep. Bart Stupak before the International Joint Commission in Washington D.C. on Oct. 14.)*

Thank you for holding this important hearing and for allowing me and other members of Congress to testify today. We have taken some important steps (since addressing the IJC in March.): I have introduced legislation calling for a moratorium on the bulk sale or diversion of Great Lakes water, and the IJC has echoed that proposal in its interim report with a call for a temporary moratorium.

Subsequent to those actions, and as this panel was told at its hearing in Milwaukee, Vice President Al Gore, speaking on behalf of the Clinton Administration, has endorsed my legislation.

These are vital steps, but only the first small first steps in addressing the issue of fresh water, which will be one of the most hotly debated topics in the new millennium.

Our Great Lakes – our "Great Treasures" – are twenty percent of the world's fresh water supply. To some it may seem that we are being greedy with this resource, but consider these facts:

- Citizens of the United States and Canada use and consume more than 100 gallons of water per person per day;
- The global water demand is doubling every 21 years;
- The World Bank predicts that by the year 2025,

more than 3 billion people in 52 countries will suffer water shortages for drinking or sanitation.

Clearly, in a world of six billion people, there is a growing problem over a dwindling resource.

To those who may still believe that the shipment of water overseas is not economically feasible, I say look around. From Newfoundland to Lake Superior to Alaska, companies are vying to ship our precious fresh water resources overseas.

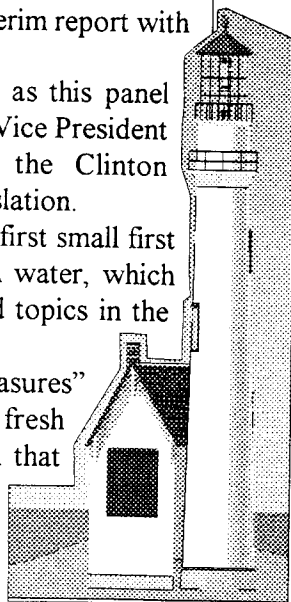
A Canadian company last year planned to ship water from Lake Superior to Asia. I authored legislation that passed the House of Representatives that called on the United States to oppose this action, and the permit has since been revoked by Canada.

However, a Canadian company called the Global Water Corporation currently has a permit to ship fresh water from Alaska to China. The company estimates that it is ten times cheaper to ship bulk water than bottled water.

The demand exists. The means exist. Vitaly important questions remain:

- What happens if we allow the bulk exportation of fresh water overseas?
- What trade law precedence do we set?
- What treaties or laws, if any, apply?
- What treaties or laws, if any, may be violated?
- If we allow the exportation of our fresh water, will areas like the Great Lakes literally be put on

(Continued on next page)



# threaten the Great Lakes . . . .

## The U.S. BAN SOUGHT FOR DRILLING UNDER LAKES

House has been asked to approve Great Lakes legislation to ban direct and directional drilling

Rep. Bart Stupak said his legislation is necessary to bring a uniform policy for oil and gas drilling in all the Great Lakes by the United States and Canada.

Directional drilling, or slant drilling, allows an oil deposit to be reached from a drilling site that is not located directly above it. In the case of the Great Lakes, that

means that an oil drilling rig can be located on the shore, and the well itself can be drilled at an angle under the water.

The legislation also targets oils wells drilled directly from platforms located in Great Lakes waters.

"The Great Lakes are a public trust property that exists for the benefit for all citizens," Stupak said.

"Unless we move to prohibit this potentially devastating activity, the possibility exists for a proliferation of

oil and gas wells on the Great Lakes."

"The value of the Great Lakes to the quality of life of much of the United States is almost incalculable," Stupak said. "The idea that this environment could be damaged or destroyed by a preventable accident should be a matter of great concern for every person living around these vital bodies waters." Currently, Canada allows drilling directly into the Great Lakes and the State of Michigan has supported directional drilling from the shore. □

## of the Great Lakes."

(Continued from Page 2)

the world market for sale to the highest bidder?

I hope these hearings and this process will help shed light on these issues, because these are among the questions that we face during the breathing space that a moratorium affords us.

I am very concerned that improper policies could allow for large-scale diversions of Great Lakes water, threatening the environment, economy, and welfare of the Great Lakes region. Now is the time, therefore, to begin to formulate at the federal level an ironclad agreement between the United States and Canada to protect this essential resource.

Our Great Lakes are renewable, but they are not replaceable. We are not merely citizens of the Great Lakes. We are her guardians. We are her stewards.

As we work toward an agreement, we must begin to consider the health of our Great Lakes in a holistic sense. We need to consider the runoff of pesticides as carefully as we consider the threat of invasive species.

As the United States works with its friend and neighbor, Canada, we need to consider the potential threat to the Great Lakes from the issue of drilling for oil and gas beneath the Great Lakes, just as carefully as we weigh sale or diversion of Great Lakes water.

None of these concerns are truly independent of one another in terms of their potential impact on the 35 million people whose livelihoods and quality of life depends on what is our most vital natural resource: The Great Lakes – our Great Treasures. □



Congressman Bart Stupak stands before the U.S. Capitol in July, as he and a bipartisan group of Great Lakes members of Congress introduce legislation that would impose a moratorium on the bulk sale or diversion of Great Lakes water until a formal U.S.- Canadian policy can be implemented.

## Gephardt Again Names Stupak to Ethics Panel

*(The following announcement was made from the nation's capital earlier this year.)*

WASHINGTON — Minority Leader Richard Gephardt has again named Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Menominee, to the small pool of congressmen who may be called on to investigate other members of the U.S. House for potential ethics violations.

Stupak joins nine other Democrats named by Gephardt and 10 Republicans named by House Speaker Dennis Hastert as part of the select group that may be drawn on to assist the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in investigating ethics complaints.

In accordance with ethics reforms adopted by the House in September 1997, these 20 members will be asked to form investigative subcommittees, so that in the event of multiple investigations no member of the Committee on Standards will have to serve on more than one panel.

"A sense of justice and fair play, an excellent knowledge of the House and its procedures, and an ability to rise above partisanship were key traits

used to select those members who will serve on these subcommittees," Gephardt said in making his appointment last year. "Congressman Stupak brings all these skills, plus a probing mind, to this task."

A Michigan attorney, Stupak is also a former Michigan state trooper whose duties included conducting investigations of public officials. □

## House Leadership Names Stupak to Special Task Force

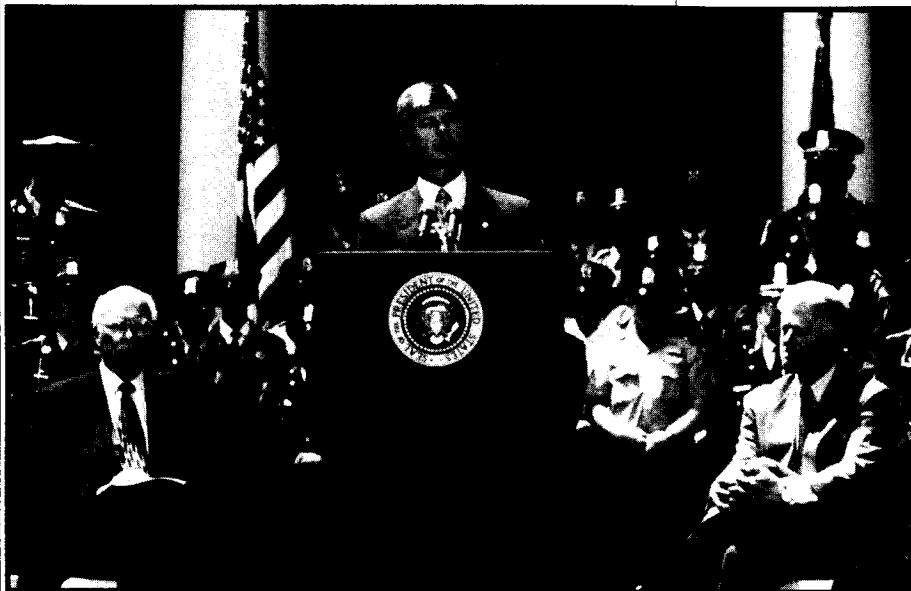
House Democratic and Republican leaders in July announced the creation of a task force to study the issue of juvenile violence. Among those named was Rep. Bart Stupak, a former police officer and founder and co-chairman of the House Law Enforcement Caucus.

In separate statements on the new task force, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt sought to look beyond the single issue of guns in giving direction to the panel.

"It is my hope that this Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence will be able to work together and identify possible answers to help our children, teenagers, and young adults lead safer, more secure lives," Hastert said.

"Congress needs to break free of the special interests and come up with a common-sense approach to make sure our children are safe on playgrounds and classrooms all across our country," Gephardt said.

"This is an issue that involves all of society - our schools, our communities, and our families," Stupak said. "It involves the movies we watch, the video games we buy, and the activities in which our young people participate, both during and after school." □



### Making a Pitch for Police

Speaking at a spring White House ceremony Rep. Bart Stupak, flanked by Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vermont, and President Bill Clinton, thanks the administration for the 195 new police officers awarded to the 1st Congressional District over the past four years and makes an appeal for more School Resource officers as part of a proposed reauthorization of the highly successful COPS program.

## Veterans, federal service personnel, may be eligible for Cold War Recognition Certificate

All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 25, 1991, are eligible to receive the Cold War Recognition Certificate.

National Guard members and Reservists are among those eligible, and the certificate may be awarded posthumously to those relatives who apply on behalf of the veteran or employee.

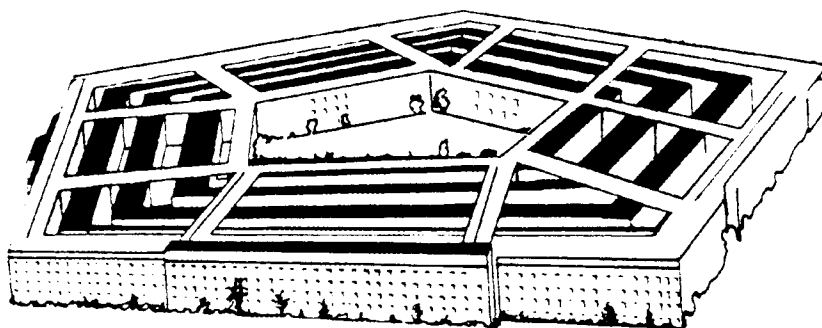
The certificate is being awarded by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with section 1084 of the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act.

Individuals who believe they qualify for the certificate may apply by mail or online. Applica-

tion forms are available on request by writing: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-7445, by fax at 1-800-723-9262, or at a special World Wide Web site for this issue: <http://coldwar.army.mil>

Supporting material to be submitted with the application includes any document which shows the intended recipient was a U.S. government employee during the Cold War era. The document must include the name of the recipient, the Social Security Number, Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, as

listed in the request for the certificate. The date of the document must fall within the eligible dates set for the Cold War. ☐



## An open letter to 1st Congressional District Veterans

Dear Veteran:

*Knowing of your strong interest in veterans matters, I am writing this letter to update you on what is happening in Congress regarding veterans health care funding.*

*Representatives Chet Edwards (D-TX), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Lane Evans (D-IL) introduced an amendment to H.R. 2684, the VA-HUD Appropriations bill, which would increase funding for veterans health care by \$730 million, and pay for the increase by postponing the Republican-backed capital gains tax cut until January 1, 2001. It would have delayed **one-tenth of 1 percent** of the proposed tax cut. The Department of Veterans Affairs has indicated that the increase of \$730 million in this amendment would help an additional **140,000** veterans receive much-needed health care.*

*Unfortunately, when the amendment came to the floor for a vote, the Majority defeated it.*

*I strongly supported this amendment, because I firmly believe that our priorities lie in improving health care for America's veterans rather than providing a tax cut to a small percentage of the richest Americans.*

*With Veterans Affairs facing a \$1.3 billion shortfall, we desperately need to search for ways to secure enough funding to ensure our veterans receive the health care they were promised and deserve. It is unfortunate that in their zeal to provide tax cuts to those who do not need it, Republicans have passed this opportunity to make veterans one of their priorities.*

*Sincerely,*

**BART STUPAK**

*Member of Congress*

# Events in U.P., D.C. focus on steel 'dumping'



Rep. Bart Stupak in February, (*photo, left*) addressed steelworkers on the Mall in Washington, D.C., on the issue of imported steel being "dumped," or sold below the cost to make it.

In early March Stupak addressed northern Michigan residents in Negaunee on the same issue, bringing with him Patrick A. Mulloy, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance in the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration.

"Every family, every business, every community faces an economic threat from these unfair trade practices," Stupak said. "The loss of jobs directly related to steel production will hurt all sectors of our northern Michigan economy."

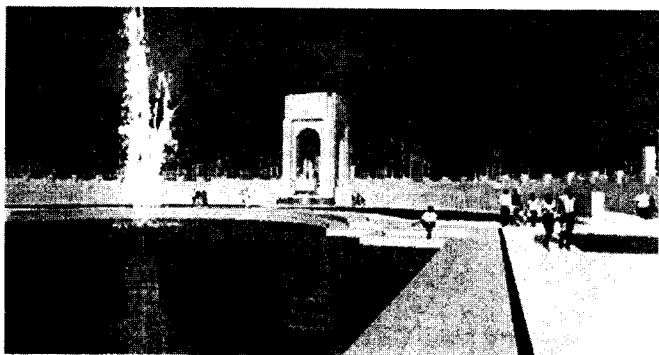
Stupak has co-sponsored legislation that would put a cap on steel imports, based on the tonnage imported from each nation over a 36-month prior period. □

## House approves assistance for World War II Memorial

Within one week of approving a flag desecration amendment to the Constitution, the House passed, as a provision of H.R. 2280, a measure easing restrictions on fund-raising efforts for the World War II Memorial.

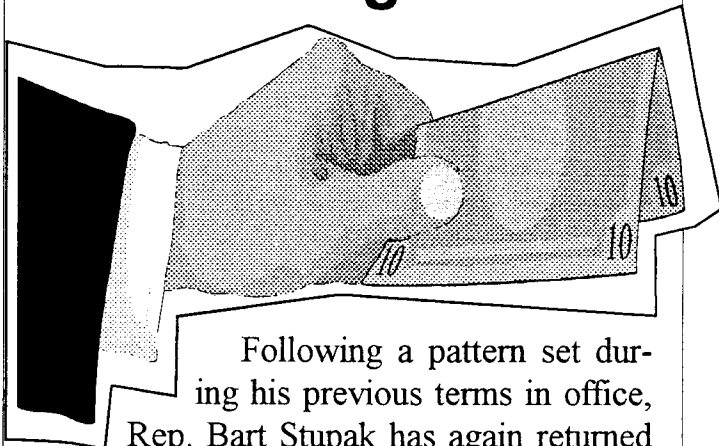
As the nation is painfully aware, nearly one thousand World War II veterans are passing away each day. Congress decided that it was about time that Congress ensures that this memorial is built so that those veterans who fought against evil and tyranny could witness the memorial in their honor. In order to borrow from the American Battlefield Monument Fund, the public funding mechanism to build national monuments, organizers would have had to privately raise roughly half the total required to build the monument.

With time running out, however, Congress waived this requirement permitting the organizers to move forward without having to meet the otherwise large dollar matching requirements. □



View approaching Memorial Arch from the south.

## Office efficiency allows return of budget funds



Following a pattern set during his previous terms in office, Rep. Bart Stupak has again returned funds allocated for operating his congressional offices. Stupak this year returned \$55,843.24, bringing to nearly \$222,000 the amount returned over his six full years in office. "We will only spend what is needed to operate our offices and properly serve the people of northern Michigan, and we will return the balance," he said. □

## ... Around the 1st District ...

*Some late news briefs and initiatives affecting the residents of northern Michigan*

**K.I. Sawyer International Airport** was dedicated in September. Rep. Stupak and Sen. Carl Levin were featured speakers at the ribbon-cutting, and Rep. Stupak spoke again later, praising the Marquette County Board of Commissioners for its courage in agreeing to undertake the task of converting the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base to civilian use. Thousands of hours of work and millions in grant dollars later, a core of businesses is now forming around the great runway deeded by the Air Force to the county.

\* \* \* \*

The U.S. House in early October approved the legislative language of Rep. Stupak that imposes criminal penalties for illegal possession and use of the **date rape drug GHB**. The bill sets the harsh penalties that would be levied for the possession, use and manufacture of GHB. An important element of the Stupak bill is a waiver of the security requirements of the law to permit a national clinical trial of GHB in the treatment of narcolepsy, and of catalepsy, a condition of the sudden loss of muscle control.

\* \* \* \*

Northern Michigan public officials, local and county emergency and public safety personnel, environmental organizations and private citizens were all given an opportunity to be briefed by U.S. Department of Energy personnel and ask direct questions of DOE experts at three hearings set up by Rep. Stupak on the issue of a scheduled **shipment of plutonium** through the district. The three hearings and an extended comment period through the month of October were granted at the congressman's request to permit public input on a part of a project intended to help rid the country of U.S. weapons-grade plutonium by hauling it to a reactor in Canada to be used as nuclear fuel.

\* \* \* \*

The president in September signed into law the Energy and Water Appropriation Bill, which includes \$200,000 to continue preconstruction, engineering, and design of a new Soo Lock. Rep. Stupak has continued to fight for funding for this project, which, he says, is essential to ensure that shipments of grain, ore, coal, wheat

and other commodities continue to flow from the Great Lakes region to other national and international ports. "One accident in the existing Poe Lock could halt these shipments and bring U.S. steel-making to a grinding halt." He said he will continue to push for funding for a new Poe Lock.

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Two national organizations honored Rep. Bart Stupak in September for his voting record on key issues. The **National Farmers Union** announced Stupak was being recognized for his votes on behalf of family farmers, ranchers and rural communities, and the **National Parks and Conservation Association** recognized Stupak as a "Friend of the National Parks" at a ceremony in the Capitol for his pro-park voting record.

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### Voices Against Violence

Amy Borer, a 10th-grade student from Traverse City, and Greg Mack, a 10th grader from Houghton, joined Rep. Bart Stupak and 350 other students in mid-October in Washington for a conference on youth violence. The students were invited to offer their insight and perspective on the issue to Congressman Stupak and other House leaders, who are working to develop comprehensive, effective bipartisan juvenile justice legislation. Shown above, from left, are Amy's chaperone Mimi Bruder of Traverse City, Amy, Congressman Stupak, Greg, and Greg's mother, Taryn Mack.

## Drug Prices for seniors: A $\mathbb{R}$ for change

Many seniors pay more than twice as much for their prescription drugs than do drug manufacturer's favored customers, like HMOs. A study conducted and released last fall by Rep. Bart Stupak looked at the pricing of 10 brand-name prescription drugs that have the highest sales to the elderly.

The study focused on drugs used to control blood pressure, arthritis, ulcers, cholesterol, heart conditions, osteoporosis, depression and stroke. The study showed that Ticlid, a stroke-

controlling drug manufactured by Hoffman-LaRoche, would cost favored customers \$33.57, while seniors would pay \$112.99, a 237 percent differential. In another case, the equivalent dose of the hormone treatment Synthroid

would cost the manufacturer's favored customers \$1.78, while the average

senior in Michigan would pay almost \$25, a 1,288 percent difference!

Stupak has co-sponsored legislation, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act, which would allow seniors to purchase

prescription drugs at the same low price available to the federal government and other favored customers.

"Seniors should not have to choose between putting food on their tables or paying for life-sustaining prescriptions," Stupak said. "Some seniors either don't take their drugs or cut their dosage rate, reducing the effectiveness of their drugs, because they can't afford their prescriptions."

Stupak is asking seniors to send copies of their prescription drug bills – and information about their overall income – to his Washington office, 2348 Rayburn, Washington, D.C. 20515. ☐

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Official business*



*Bart Stupak*  
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